

## Chapter 7 – Conceptual Boundaries

Conceptual boundary delineations, as recommended by NPS guidelines, are an important part of the NHA feasibility study. NHA boundaries should include the natural/cultural/historic resources which support the proposed NHA themes. The boundaries of the potential NHA remain conceptual through the feasibility study process, and are not finalized until after a NHA is designated by Congress and a management plan is developed.

Two boundaries alternatives were proposed as part of this process. The first boundary alternative was developed by the DPC staff based upon the geographical range of heritage resources in the Delta which are supportive of NHA themes. This boundary alternative included the Primary Zone of the Delta, as well as a few add-ons. The second boundary alternative is the boundary that was included in the 2011 Delta NHA legislation introduced by Feinstein and Garamendi. This alternative includes much of the Legal Delta, as well as the Suisun Marsh and Carquinez Strait.

Based on the input received from a series of public meetings held throughout the Delta in October 2011, the December 2011 DPC meeting, and correspondence from Delta counties, DPC staff has made the recommendation to go with the second boundary alternative, with the addition of the city of Rio Vista.

### ***Description of the Recommended Boundary Alternative***

This boundary alternative was developed for the Delta NHA legislation introduced by Feinstein and Garamendi. The majority of the land area in this alternative is within the Legal Delta, but extends into the Suisun Marsh and Carquinez Strait.

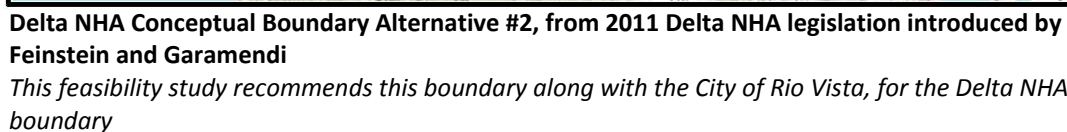
As NPS criteria outlines, NHAs must contain an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage. Therefore, consideration of this boundary must include discussion on ways in which the resources of the Carquinez Strait and Suisun Marsh are also supportive of the themes identified in this process. Both the Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust and the Suisun Marsh Resources Conservation District have written to the DPC expressing their interests in being included in the NHA and explained relevant elements of their histories and existing resources (see appendix 6).

The Suisun Marsh lies directly adjacent to the Delta and is the largest estuarine marsh in the western United States and is extremely ecologically diverse. The Marsh was also reclaimed for agriculture during the same period that the Delta was, though state and federal water projects and upstream diversions led to a decline of agriculture in the Marsh and most of the Marsh was then purchased to support waterfowl habitat and hunting. A number of resources in the Marsh are used for education, interpretation, and recreation, which can be supportive of the Delta NHA, particularly the public lands in the marsh which are open for wildlife viewing, hiking, birdwatching, photography, hunting, and fishing.

The Carquinez Strait is a geographical link between the San Francisco Bay and the Delta, therefore making it a key component of the largest estuary on the West Coast. The geologic creation of the Delta stemmed from sediments trapped inland of the rocky neck of the Strait. It is part of the passage for anadromous fish, as well as a Pacific flyway stopover location. Historically, it was part of the Gold Rush corridor and home to a fishing industry like the Delta was. Agricultural goods produced in the Delta were processed and stored in grain warehouses, flour mills, and canning facilities that were once prevalent along the Strait. One of the activities which the Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust has undertaken is the publishing of a book, *Gateway to the Inland Coast – The Story of the Carquinez Strait*, 1996, which goes into further detail about heritage resources in the Strait.

Regional Trails connect these systems together, and areas of the Strait and the Marsh could serve as potential gateways for a Delta NHA. Financial advantages may also exist to including urban areas, such as the communities along the Carquinez Strait, into the NHA boundaries.

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## Chapter 8 – Supporting Resources

Criteria for NHA designation includes language that an area must have natural, historic, and cultural resources which represent nationally-significant aspects of American history, as well as recreational and educational opportunities. This chapter will discuss some of the key resources of the NHA under consideration. Key historic/cultural resources are listed, mapped, and described, including: National Historic Landmarks, National Memorials, National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Historically Significant Bridges, and Museums. Local historic/cultural festivals are also described. Public lands with public access are listed, mapped, and described, as these lands serve as valuable natural, recreational, and in some cases historical/cultural resources. Finally, recreational resources are described and mapped, including California Recreational Corridors which pass through the region.

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# Inventory of Historical/Cultural Resources

County	Resource Name	Address	City/Town
<b>National Historic Landmarks</b>			
Contra Costa	John Muir House	4202 Alhambra Ave.	Martinez
Sacramento	Locke Historic District	Locke	Locke
<b>National Memorial</b>			
Contra Costa	Port Chicago Naval Magazine	Concord Naval Weapons Station	Concord
<b>National Register of Historic Places</b>			
Contra Costa	Contra Costa County Courthouse	625 Court Street	Martinez
Contra Costa	County Hall of Records	725 Court Street	Martinez
Contra Costa	John Marsh Home		
Contra Costa	Martinez City Library	740 Court Street	Martinez
Contra Costa	Port Costa School	Plaza El Hambre	Port Costa
Contra Costa	Riverview Union High School Building	1500 West 4th Street	Antioch
Contra Costa	Roswell Butler Hard House	815 West First Street	Antioch
Contra Costa	Tucker House	110 Escobar	Martinez
Sacramento	Rosebud Ranch	N of Hood	Hood
Sacramento	Runyon House	12865 River Rd.	Courtland
Sacramento	Delta Meadows Site	Address Restricted	Locke
Sacramento	Locke Historic District	Bounded on the W by the Sacramento River, on the N by Locke Rd., on the E by Alley St., and on the S by Levee St.	Locke
Sacramento	Brown, John Stanford, House	13950 CA 160	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Imperial Theatre	Market St.	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Walnut Grove Chinese-American Historic District	Bounded by C, Tyler, and Bridge Sts., and River Rd.	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Walnut Grove Commercial/Residential Historic District	Browns Alley and River Rd.	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Walnut Grove Gakuen Hall	Pine and C Sts.	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Walnut Grove Japanese-American Historic District	Bounded by Winnie St., Tyler St., C St., and River Rd.	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts	Bounded by River Rd. and Union, E and H Sts.	Isleton
Solano	Benicia Capitol State Historic Park	NW Corner of 1 <sup>st</sup> and G Sts	Benicia
Solano	Bird and Dinkelspiel Store aka Benjamin Store	2145 Collinsville Road., Bird's Landing	Collinsville
Solano	Carr House	165 East D Street	Benicia
Solano	Crooks Mansion	285 W. G St.	Benicia
Solano	Fischer Hanlon House	135 W. G St.	Benicia
Solano	Hastings Adobe	NE of Collinsville off CA 68	Collinsville
Solano	Old Masonic Hall	106 W. J St.	Benicia
Solano	Saint Vincent's Hill Historic District (Partial)	Mare Island Way almost to Sonoma Blvd. and from Quincy Alley to Kissel Alley	Vallejo
Solano	Stamboul (Whaling Bark)	Foot of W. 12 <sup>th</sup> St.	Benicia
Solano	Vallejo City Hall & County Building Branch	734 Marin St.	Vallejo
Solano	Vallejo Old City Historic District (Partial)	Sonoma Blvd., and Monterey, Carolina, and York Sts	Vallejo
<b>California Historical Landmark</b>			
Solano	1 <sup>st</sup> Masonic Hall in CA	110 W. J St.	Benicia
Solano	The Old Homestead	993 Loring Ave. at Ralph Ave.	Crockett
Solano	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	120 E. J St. at 1 <sup>st</sup> St.	Benicia
Yolo	First Pacific Coast Salmon Cannery	West Sacramento	W. Sacramento
<b>California Points of Historical Interest</b>			
Sacramento	George Hack House	River Road	Freeport
Sacramento	Jean Harvie School, Walnut Grove Community Center	14273 River Road	Walnut Grove
Sacramento	Grand Island Mansion	13415 Grand Island Road	Walnut Grove
Solano	Benicia Seminary	City Park Military West between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Benicia
Solano	1 <sup>st</sup> Protestant Church in CA	Benicia City Park, K St between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Benicia
Solano	Matthew Turner Shipyard	Foot of W. 12 <sup>th</sup> St. off of W. K St.	Benicia
Solano	Rio Vista & Isleton Portuguese Hall	295 S. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street	Rio Vista
Solano	State Capitol at Vallejo	NW Corner of City Parking Lot, 200 York	Vallejo

## Inventory of Historical/Cultural Resources (cont.)

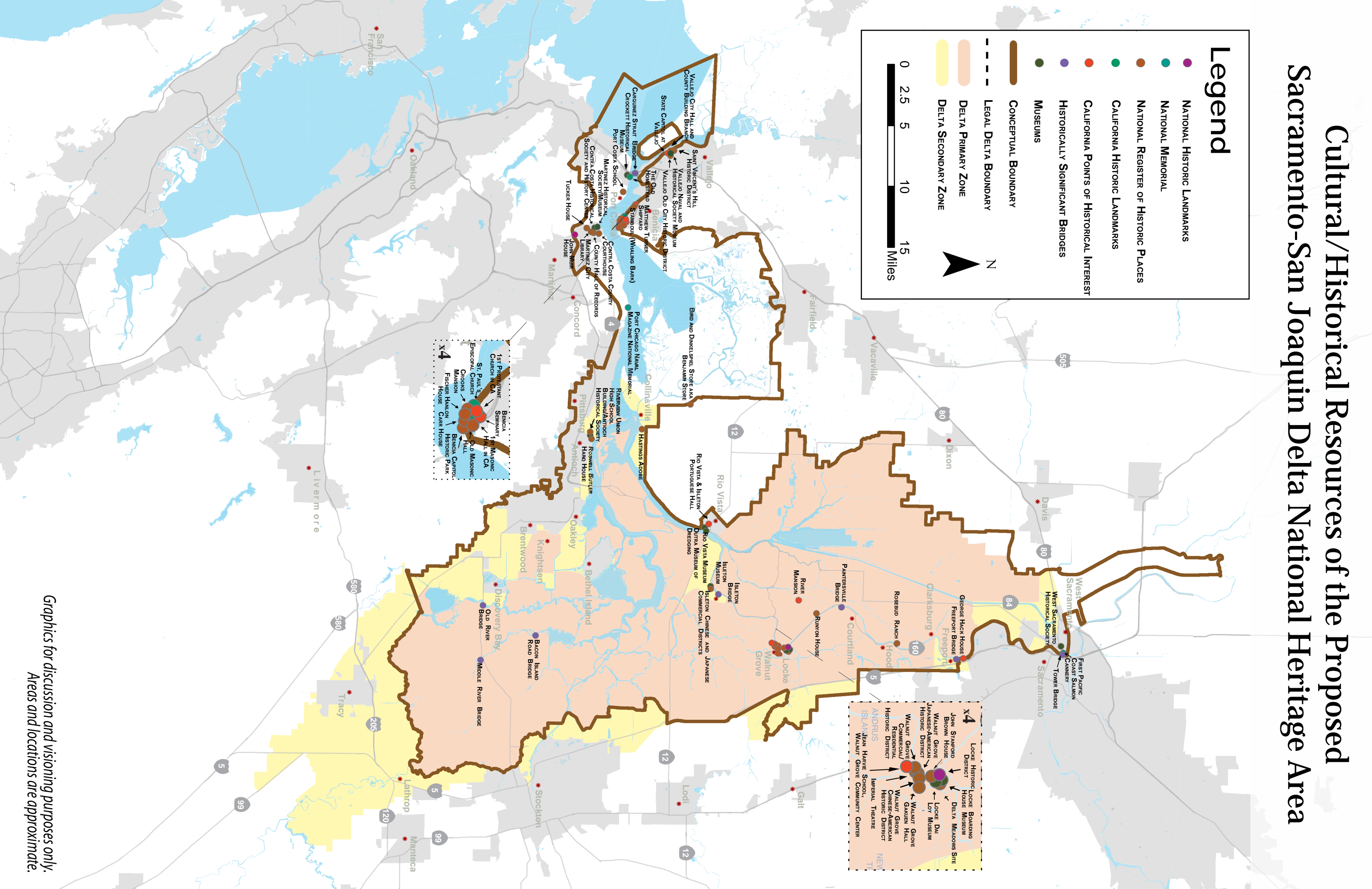
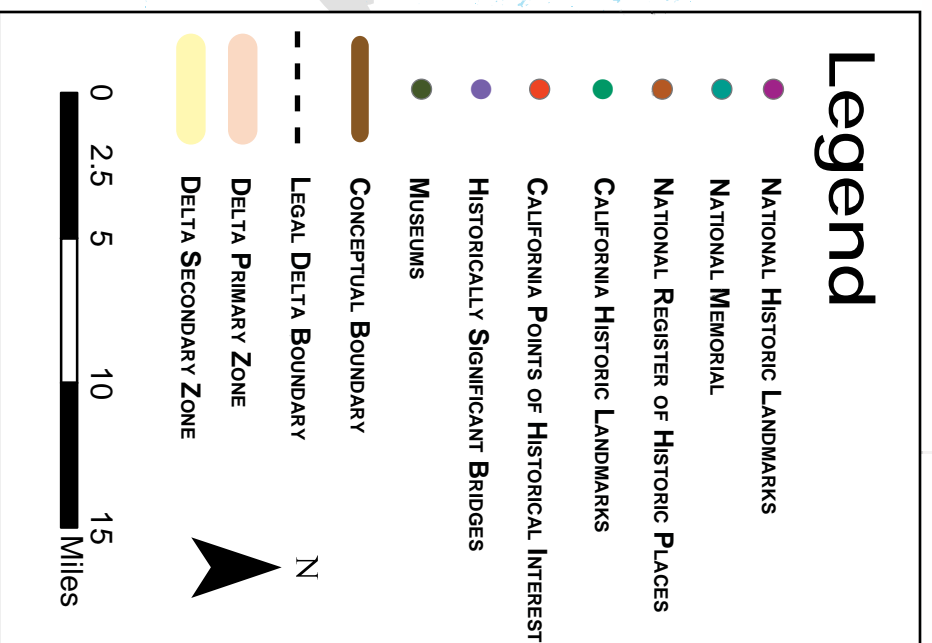
### *Historically Significant Bridges (determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places)*

Contra Costa/Solano	Carquinez Strait Bridge	Interstate 80 over Carquinez Strait	Crockett/Vallejo
Sacramento	Freeport Bridge	Near Freeport on Freeport blvd over Sacramento River	Freeport
Sacramento	Isleton Bridge	Near Isleton on State Route 160 over Sacramento River	Isleton
Sacramento	Paintersville Bridge	Near Courtland on State Route 160 over Sacramento River	Courtland
San Joaquin	Bacon Island Road Bridge	In the vicinity of Stockton on Bacon Island Road over Middle Road	Stockton
San Joaquin	Middle River Bridge	Near Stockton on State Route 4 over Middle River	Stockton
San Joaquin	Old River Bridge	Near Stockton on State Route 4 over Old River	Stockton
Yolo/ Sacramento	Tower Bridge	State Route 279 (Capitol Mall in Sacramento) across the Sacramento River, between West Sacramento in Yolo County and the City of Sacramento	W. Sacramento /Sacramento

### **Museums**

Contra Costa	Antioch Historical Society	1500 W. Fourth Street	Antioch
Contra Costa	Contra Costa Historical Society and History Center	610 Main Street	Martinez
Contra Costa	Crockett Historical Museum	900 Loring Ave.	Crockett
Contra Costa	Martinez Historical Society/Museum	1005 Escobar	Martinez
Sacramento	Isleton Museum	33 Main Street	Isleton
Sacramento	Locke Board House Museum	13916 Main Street	Locke
Sacramento	Locke Dai Loy Museum	Main Street	Locke
Solano	Dutra Museum of Dredging	345 St. Gertrude Avenue	Rio Vista
Solano	Rio Vista Museum	16 N. Front Street	Rio Vista
Solano	Vallejo Naval and Historical Society Museum	734 Marin St.	Vallejo
Yolo	West Sacramento Historical Society	849 Jefferson	W. Sacramento

# Cultural/Historical Resources of the Proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area



*Graphics for discussion and visioning purposes only.  
Areas and locations are approximate.*

## Descriptions of Historical/Cultural Resources

Photos by DPC, unless noted otherwise

### National Historic Landmarks

#### **John Muir House**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

The John Muir National Historic Site is a 14-room Italianate Victorian mansion where the naturalist and writer John Muir lived, as well as a nearby 325 acres tract of native oak woodlands and grasslands historically owned by the Muir family. The mansion was built in 1883 by Dr. John Strentzel, Muir's father-in-law, with whom Muir went into partnership, managing his 2,600-acre fruit ranch. Muir and his wife, Louisa, moved into the house in 1890, and he lived there until his death in 1914.



Photo source: Wikipedia

#### **Locke Historical District**

*Locke, Sacramento County*

Built in 1915, the town of Locke, is the last vestige of a single Chinese community in the nation. The town was built and inhabited exclusively for and by the Chinese. Many community



Photo source: Locke Foundation

members helped build the first transcontinental railroad and the extensive levee system throughout the Delta. Locke is composed of four blocks of one- and two-story commercial and residential structures entirely designed in the false-fronted, woodcutter, gothic style which was predominate in the small turn-of-the-century river towns. Many of the original descendants live in the community today.

### National Memorial

#### **Port Chicago Naval Magazine**

*Concord, Contra Costa County*

The Port Chicago Naval Magazine is a memorial for the largest homeland disaster during World War II. On the evening of July 17, 1944, residents in the San Francisco East Bay were jolted awake by a massive explosion that cracked windows and lit up the night sky. At Port Chicago Naval Magazine, 320 men were instantly killed when the munitions ships they were loading with ammunition for the Pacific theatre troops blew up. The majority of the deaths were African American sailors working for the racially segregated military. The explosion and its aftermath led to the largest Naval mutiny in US history, and it and the subsequent trial became major catalysts for the United States Navy to desegregate following the war.

## **National Register of Historic Places**

### **Contra Costa County Courthouse**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

This Classical Revival civic building was designed by Edward Geoffrey Banks and is now used as the Contra Costa County Finance Building.

### **County Hall of Records**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

Built in 1932, the Contra Costa County Hall of Records is an example of Classical Revival architecture.



Photo source: Panoramio



Photo source: Wikipedia

### **Martinez City Library**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

In 1883, a small group of young women formed a reading society and opened a public reading room at 620 Main Street in a building owned by Dr. John Strentzel. The goals were to discuss literature and raise money for a free library. In 1885, the society dissolved and reformed as the Martinez Free Reading Room and Library Association. Members were charged 25 cents per month for the privilege of borrowing books. Reading in the library was free to all.

### **Port Costa School**

*Port Costa, Contra Costa County*

The Port Costa School served the community of Port Costa from 1911 until it was closed in 1966 due to consolidation. The building's architecture is Classic Revival, with four columns supporting a gabled portico. The building was purchased from the John Swett Unified School District in 1988 by the Port Costa Conservation Society.



Photo source: Wikipedia



Photo source: NoeHill

### **Riverview Union High School Building**

*Antioch, Contra Costa County*

The Riverview Union High School was the first high school built in Contra Costa County in 1911. Students from as far as Oakley and Pittsburg attended the school. After the school closed in 1931, the US Department of Reclamation occupied the building.

### **Roswell Butler Hard House**

*Antioch, Contra Costa County*

The Roswell Butler Hard House was constructed in 1869 with brick from Antioch's first brick factory. The home served as the meeting place for the first board of trustees for the newly incorporated city. It is the only surviving Italianate style home in the city of Antioch. Outside of the house is the Cannery Lady Monument, which pays recognition to women's contributions to the labor force in canneries and packing sheds throughout the rich agricultural and fishing areas of east Contra Costa County.



Photo source: Noe Hill

### **Tucker House**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

The Tucker House is a luxurious 4 story mansion built for Captain Tucker's family, a sea captain turned successful wheat grower. Captain John Tucker was a sea captain from Nantucket, Massachusetts, who settled in Martinez and built a mansion atop the hill on Escobar Street.



Photo source: Wikipedia



### **Rosebud Ranch**

*Hood, Sacramento County*

Built in 1877 by California Senator William Johnston and designed by Sacramento master architect Nathaniel Goodell, Rosebud main house is an exceptional example of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate architecture. The ranch also comprises a farm complex typically seen in 19<sup>th</sup> century Delta farms, complete with smokehouse, barns, bunk houses, pump rooms, and sheds. The house was solely owned and occupied by the Johnston family until 1967 when the house was purchased by well known artist Wayne Thiebaud.

### **Runyon House**

*Courtland, Sacramento County*

The Runyon house, built in 1868, was home to Solomon Runyon, one of the earliest settlers in the Delta. Runyon became the largest orchardist in the Delta and built his home to reflect the bounties and opportunities found in the Delta.



Photo source: Prudential  
Dunnigan RE

### **Delta Meadows Site**

*Locke, Sacramento County*

Delta Meadows represents the cultural and biological remains of a protohistoric Native American village. Remains include faunal, burial, and ceremonial which represent the village life in the Delta prior to development. Additionally, the site contains examples of pre-reclamation Riparian Woodland.



### **Imperial Theater**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

The Imperial Theater, built in 1919, was a source of entertainment for residents in the Delta. The theater was built by Yonekichi Takeda and owned by Mrs. Alex Brown, as exclusionary laws excluded Asian-Americans from owning property at that time. In the late 1930s the theater was purchased by Ray Gilgert. In 1954 a representative of the government of Nationalist China was met by virtually the whole

Delta Chinese community in an effort to raise money and denounce communism at the Imperial Theater.

### **John Stanford Brown House**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

The Brown house, built in 1925, is a leading example of Tudor Revival architecture which was prevalent in the US throughout the 1910s-30s. The home was designed by noted Sacramento architect Frank "Squeaky" Williams.

John Stanford Brown was born and raised in Walnut Grove and was the founding president of the Bank of Alex Brown.



### **Walnut Grove Chinese-American Historic District**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

The Walnut Grove Chinese-American Historic District, built circa 1937, served as the commercial and social center for both the Asian residents and for Chinese-American laborers working on the nearby farms and ranches. The district was the final cohesively constructed enclave of the Chinese Americans in the region and the last established Chinatown in the Delta.

### **Walnut Grove Commercial/Residential Historic District**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

This district served as the center of the non-Asian commercial district between 1879 and 1923. Its buildings were all built and used by Walnut Grove resident Alex Brown. Some of the oldest commercial and residential buildings in Walnut Grove are located in this district.



### **Walnut Grove Gakuen Hall**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

The Walnut Grove Gakuen Hall is the only known example of a Japanese culture and language school, designed and built by Japanese, as a reaction to the 1921 California public school segregation laws. Out of fear, the Japanese residents banded together and collected donations to construct the Gakuen Hall so that their children would be able to speak and understand the Japanese language and culture if forced to move back to Japan.



Photo source: National Park Service

### **Walnut Grove Japanese-American Historic District**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

The Japanese-American District encompasses five acres of land within the town of Walnut Grove. The district was built in 1915 after fire destroyed the previous district. The district includes all the Japanese-American commercial section of town. The buildings are all designed with commercial suites on the first floor and residences on the second.



### **Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts**

*Isleton, Sacramento County*

This district served as the commercial and social center for both residents and the Asian-Americans in the surrounding areas. Isleton was the only Asian community constructed in the Delta during the heyday of agriculture in the 1920s, and was the last in a series of Chinese/Japanese American sections of town built on the same site since 1878. The district represents a cohesively constructed enclave of both Chinese-Americans and Japanese-Americans in the area and reflects the time when Asians were an essential and major agricultural labor force in the Delta. The 1920s press tin siding architectural style is unique to the town of Isleton.



### **Benicia Capital State Historic Park**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The park is dedicated to California's third capitol building, where the California State Legislature and bureaucracy convened from February 3, 1853 to February 24, 1854. It is the only pre-Sacramento capitol that survives.

Photo source: NoeHill

### **Bird and Dinkelspiel Store aka Benjamin Store**

*Collinsville, Solano County*

In 1869 John Bird constructed a wharf and warehouse on Montezuma Slough. Soon, one mile east of the wharf, a community began to evolve. A blacksmith shop came first, and then the store was built in 1875. In this year the town was officially named Birds Landing.



Photo source: Historical Marker Data Base

### **Carr House**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The Carr house is one of the few masonry buildings in Benicia. The house was constructed in 1870. The brick shell is a sober vernacular structure.

### **Crooks Mansion**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The Crooks house at 285 West G St. was built in the late 1880s by J.E. Crooks and his brother William, president of the People's Bank in Benicia and mayor from 1924-1940. The architectural style reflects the taste of that era, Stick-style.



Photo source: Wikipedia

### **Fischer Hanlon House**

*Benicia, Solano County*

In 1849, Joseph Fischer, a Swiss immigrant, came to Benicia. After joining a butcher partnership, Fischer purchased his lot on July 1, 1858. The house, reputed to be an old hotel was relocated here. The converted building is an outstanding example of East Coast Federalist styling, which illustrates architectural diffusion during the Gold Rush.



Photo source: Panoramio

### **Hastings Adobe**

*Collinsville, Solano County*

The Hastings Adobe, completed in 1846, is the second oldest structure in Solano County. Pioneer Lansford Hastings, author of the *Emigrants Guide to Oregon and California*, claimed the property in hopes to plan a Mormon community named Montezuma City. Hastings lived in the adobe until he abandoned it in 1849. Lindsay Marshall took possession of the property in 1853 and reclaimed over 1,000 acres for farming and ranching. The adobe is currently owned by PG&E.

### **Old Masonic Hall**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The Old Masonic Hall in Benicia, California was built in 1850. It served as a clubhouse.

## **Saint Vincent's Hill Historic District**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

The St. Vincent's Hill Historic District is a 33-square block area surrounding St. Vincent's Catholic Church and bounded on the south by Florida and Carolina Streets, on the east by Sonoma Boulevard, on the north by Tennessee Street, and on the west by Mare Island Way. The historic significance of this district lies in its growth as a workingman's neighborhood for shipbuilders at the nearby Mare Island Naval Shipyard. It is expressed in a wide variety of architectural styles beginning with the Greek Revival cottages of the 1850's and 1860's.

## **Stamboul (Whaling Bark)**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The whaling bark Stamboul was built in Medford, Massachusetts in 1843, and during the 1880's, her home port was San Francisco. She had a length of 106 feet, a beam of 25 feet, and a draft of 14 feet with a tonnage of 260. A bark is a sailing ship with three masts, square-rigged on the fore and main masts and fore-and-aft rigged on the mizzenmast. In the mid-19th century, this rigging became popular for whaling vessels because it required fewer men to handle the sails when the boats were down for whales. The name *Stamboul* is a variant form of *Istanbul* widely used by English speakers in the 19th Century.



Photo source: Noe Hill



## **Vallejo City Hall and County Building Branch**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

The Vallejo City Hall and County Building Branch was built in 1927 and is an example of Spanish Renaissance Revival architecture. The building was designed by Charles Perry.

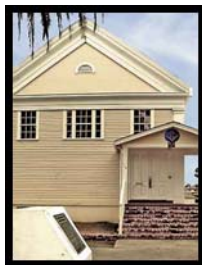
Photo source: Wikipedia

## **Vallejo Old City Historic District**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

The Vallejo Heritage District was one of the first nationally registered districts west of the Mississippi. The district contains houses and structures which showcase Vallejo's rich and varied architectural history. Most of the homes in the district were built between 1860 and 1890 and show the elegant style of what has become known as the "Working Man's Victorian".

## **California Historical Landmark**



### **1<sup>st</sup> Masonic Hall in California**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The first Masonic hall built in California was formally dedicated 1850. This building served as the Masonic Temple for Benicia Lodge No. 5 until 1888, when the new temple was occupied. It was used by a boys' club prior to World War I and by the American Legion shortly after the war.

Photo source:  
NoeHill

## **The Old Homestead**

*Crockett, Contra Costa County*

This was the first American home in Crockett constructed in 1867 by Thomas Edwards, Sr. on land purchased in 1866 from Judge J. B. Crockett. Located on an earlier Indian village near the Carquinez Straits, its timbers, some of which were brought around the Horn, have been well preserved.

## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The Parish of St. Paul's was officially organized on February 13, 1855, when its first Vestry was elected. St. Paul's is the third oldest Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California preceded only by St. Paul's, Sacramento in 1849, and St. John's, Marysville in 1854.

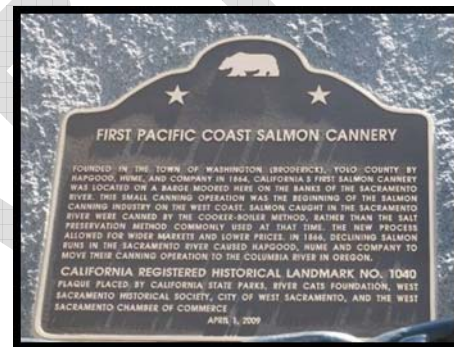


Photo source: NoeHill

## **First Pacific Coast Salmon Cannery**

*West Sacramento, Yolo County*

The cannery was founded by Hapgood, Hume and Company in 1864. This small canning operation was the beginning of the West Coast's salmon canning industry. Salmon caught in the Sacramento River were canned by the cooker-boiler method, rather than the contemporary salt preservation method of that time. This allowed for wider markets and lower prices.



## **California Points of Historical Interest**

### **George Hack House**

*Freeport, Sacramento County*

The George Hack House was built in 1879 in the Italianate Style. It was restored in 1992 by the City of Sacramento and now is used by the city's Golf Division.



### **Jean Harvie Community Center**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

Built from 1924 to 1926, the school was first used for graduation exercises in 1926. During WWII the school was used by various rationing boards and other wartime services. The school was closed due to the Field Act of 1930, but the building is still used for a variety of community activities.

### **Grand Island Mansion**

*Walnut Grove, Sacramento County*

The 24,000 square foot mansion boasts 58 rooms, tile roof, and concrete and stucco Mediterranean style. The house was built in 1918 by Mrs. Louis William Myers, daughter of Lubin of the Weinstock Lubin department store. The home has been featured in magazines such as Architectural Digest, Sunset, and National Geographic and is a popular wedding and reception location.



Photo source: Grand Island Mansion

### **Benicia Seminary**

*Benicia, Solano County*

The Benicia Seminary is the birthplace of Mills College founded in 1852 as the Young Ladies' Seminary of Benicia. The seminary was acquired from Mary Atkins by Cyrus and Susan Mills in 1865. It was moved to its present site in Oakland in 1871 and chartered as a college by the State of California in 1885.



Photo source: Noe Hill

### **1<sup>st</sup> Protestant Church in California**

*Benicia, Solano County*

This church was organized by the Reverend Sylvester Woodbridge, Jr. in 1849. This was the first Protestant church established in California with an ordained resident pastor. The church was disbanded in 1875.

### **Matthew Turner Shipyard**

*Benicia, Solano County*

Matthew Turner was an American sea captain, shipbuilder and designer. He constructed 228 vessels, of which 154 were built in the Matthew Turner shipyard in Benicia. He built more sailing vessels than any other single shipbuilder in America, and can be considered "the 'granddaddy' of big time wooden shipbuilding on the Pacific Coast".

### **Rio Vista & Isleton Portuguese Hall**

*Rio Vista, Solano County*

Since 1928, this hall has been in continuous use for social events, including the site of the annual "Holy Ghost Festa." A number of other community and family gatherings are also held regularly at this venue which makes it an important center for Delta residents, particularly in Rio Vista and Isleton.



Photo source: State Office of Historic Preservation

## **State Capitol at Vallejo**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

In 1851, Vallejo was the official state capitol, with the government prepared to meet for the first time the following year. In 1852, the legislature convened for the first time.

Unfortunately, Vallejo did not follow through with building a capitol for them to meet in. After being forced to meet in a leaky building, sitting on barrels, they motioned to move sessions to Sacramento, and served there for the remainder of the session after only 11 days.

## **Historically Significant Bridges**

***(determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places)***

### **Carquinez Strait Bridge**

*Contra Costa and Solano Counties*



Photo source: California Department of Transportation

Built in 1927, this bridge was the fourth largest cantilever bridge in the world and the second largest in the U.S. when it was built. Development of the bridge was of great importance as it provided the final link in the Pan-American Highway, connecting Canada with Mexico.

### **Freeport Bridge**

*Sacramento and Yolo Counties*

Built in 1929, the Freeport Bridge is one of only five modified examples in California of the Strauss Heel Trunnion Bascule Bridge. The main span is 226 feet long and the secondary spans are Warren pony trusses.



Photo source: California Cycling



### **Isleton Bridge**

*Sacramento County*

This bridge, built in 1923, is also one of the five modified examples of the Strauss Heel Trunnion Bascule Bridge in California. The main bascule span is 226 feet long and the secondary spans are reinforced concrete bowstring arches.

### **Paintersville Bridge**

*Sacramento County*

Built in 1923, the Paintersville bridge is additionally one of the five modified examples in California of the Strauss Heel Trunnion Bascule Bridge. The main span carries the bascule and is 226 feet long. The two secondary spans are through Pratt trusses, each 120 feet in length.



Photo source: US Library of Congress

### **Bacon Island Road Bridge**

*San Joaquin County*

Built in 1906, this 314 foot long swing bridge is the oldest movable highway span in California. Although relocated in 1950, the structure remains today in a similar setting and retains a high degree of integrity.



### **Middle River Bridge & Old River Bridge**

*San Joaquin County*

The Middle River Bridge and its twin, the Old River Bridge, are the oldest unmodified highway swing bridges in the state. They typify the many swing bridges constructed in the Delta in the early decades of the twentieth century.

### **Tower Bridge**

*Sacramento/Yolo Counties*

Sacramento's Tower Bridge is the only pre WWII vertical lift bridge in California. Built in 1934-6, the bridge eight spans total 738 feet in length, 54 feet in width, and carry four lanes of traffic between steel channel railings across the Sacramento River. The bridge is steel through Warren truss vertical lift span, with a steel through truss and reinforced concrete and steel plate deck girder approach span.



Photo source: California Department of Transportation

## **Museums**

### **Antioch Historical Society Museum**

*Antioch, Contra Costa County*

Located in Riverview Union High School Building, the Antioch Historical Society Museum contains displays and artifacts to interpret the history of Antioch and East Contra Costa County. Several displays are relevant to the broader Delta region, on topics including wildlife, Native Americans, agriculture/canneries, and maritime.

### **Contra Costa County Historical Society and History Center**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

The History Center is designed to be primarily a living archive. The History Center is a treasure trove of the records, letters, pictures, maps and books that tell the story of Contra Costa's past. It is intended as a focus for scholarly activity, offering valuable resources available for students and writers of history and a place where teachers can find prime source material on the County's past to share with their students.



### **Crockett Historical Museum**

*Crockett, Contra Costa County*

The Crockett Historical Society was founded in 1976 and opened the Museum in 1981, as part of the celebration of Crockett's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The Museum is located in the former railroad depot, which was built next to the sugar refinery in 1929 and is still owned by C&H.

Photo source: Walking San Francisco Bay

### **Martinez Historical Society and Museum**

*Martinez, Contra Costa County*

The Martinez Historical Society was created in 1973 to save the 1890 cottage, Borland House, and its site from deconstruction. Convinced that Martinez's history deserved a repository where papers, documents, photographs and artifacts could be housed, the Historical Society prevailed upon the City of Martinez to join in acquiring use of the Borland House for their purpose. A lease was obtained from the Contra Costa College District, and the Historical Society took possession in February, 1974.



Photo source: Dipity



### **Isleton Museum**

*Isleton, Sacramento County*

The Isleton Museum is located in the middle of Main Street Isleton and showcases artifacts from Chinese settlers that founded and migrated to the small city. Near the museum is also the Chinese Laborers Memorial Pavilion, which is a gazebo and small playground with artwork of Chinese scenes.

### **Locke Boarding House Museum**

*Locke, Sacramento County*

The Locke Boarding House was built in 1915 to rent out to migrant workers in the area. It now serves as an exhibit and research facility operated by California State Parks and the Locke Foundation, with historic photos and artifacts of Locke and Delta Chinese.



### **Locke Dai Loy Museum**

*Locke, Sacramento County*

A former gambling house in Locke, Dai Loy was closed down in the early fifties by the state government, but now has re-opened as a museum.

### **Dutra Museum of Dredging**

*Rio Vista, Solano County*

This museum will take one through the Northern California history of the dredging industry and the integral role that the Dutra family played in reclaiming the Delta. Scale models, photographs, and artifacts are key features of the museum.

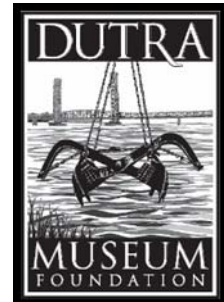


Photo source:  
Dutra Museum of  
Dredging

### **Rio Vista Museum**

*Rio Vista, Solano County*



Photo source: Rio Vista Museum

The Rio Vista Museum came about as a result of the country's 1976 Bicentennial. People of the surrounding area contributed historical artifacts to the museum to tell the unique history of Rio Vista.

## **Vallejo Naval and Historical Society Museum**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

The Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum preserves and exhibits the diverse and exciting history of the City of Vallejo and the former U.S. Naval Shipyard at Mare Island. The Museum is located in Vallejo's historic Old City Hall and features five galleries devoted to community and U.S. Navy history.

## **West Sacramento Historical Society**

*West Sacramento, Yolo County*

The West Sacramento Historical Society was established in 1993 to preserve the history of West Sacramento and to provide an opportunity for individuals and groups to learn about and experience the rich culture of West Sacramento's past. The historical society established the Museum and Visitor Center, the first museum in West Sacramento, on February 20, 2005.

## **Local Festivals**

Local festivals honor ethnic traditions, agriculture, fisheries and more. Many of the festivals are of great pride to local residents and also attract hundreds, sometimes thousands, of visitors from outside of the region. Cook-offs and other culinary events celebrate farming, often featuring trademark crops such as asparagus, dried beans, sweet corn, or pears. Many restaurants highlight fresh local produce or cuisines of various ethnic traditions.

## **Bay Point Spring Derby**

*Bay Point, Contra Costa County*

This event, organized by the Bay Point Garden Club, is celebrated annually on Memorial Day and brings together the various cultural groups of Bay Point as well as thousands of visitors from neighboring areas to celebrate the area's heritage. Activities include food, entertainment, crafts, arts, and more.

## **Brentwood Corn Festival**

*Brentwood, Contra Costa County*

Brentwood is a large supplier of Bay Area corn, with a festival to celebrate corn season every July. The family event includes entertainment, a petting zoo, rides, and lots of food!



Photo source: madmeatgenius.com

### **Courtland Pear Fair**

*Courtland, Sacramento County*



Photo source:  
Sacramento Bee

The Pear Fair is a celebration of the annual Bartlett Pear Harvest in the Delta. Organized by local community volunteers, the Fair has become a long standing summer tradition in the Delta that reflects the character and lifestyle of rural life, family fun and a wonderful day of entertainment, full of various dishes and drinks made of pears. This festival is always the last Sunday in July.

### **Isleton Asian Celebration**

*Isleton, Sacramento County*

Formerly celebrated as the Chinese New Year, the event was modified in recent years to be more inclusive of Isleton's diverse Asian heritage, and is now held on the first Saturday of March every year.



Photo source: City of Isleton

### **Isleton Cajun Festival**

*Isleton, Sacramento County*

The Isleton Cajun festival was developed to continue the traditions which the Isleton Crawdad festival had celebrated in the town for more than 20 years, once attracting 200,000 people. The Isleton Cajun Festival began in 2011, and includes food and craft vendors, Zydeco and Cajun music, a carnival for kids, and of course, crawdads.

### **Benicia in Bloom**

*Benicia, Solano County*

Celebrate the magic of spring in Downtown Benicia during the annual 'Benicia in Bloom' on the last weekend of March. The celebration features earth-friendly displays and demonstrations from Bay Area nonprofits and eco-partners.



Photo source: Benicia  
Main Street



Photo source: Latitude 38

### **Northern California Pirate Festival**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

The Northern California Pirate Festival has one goal: to create an entertaining event where everyone who loves pirates will have a great time and feel welcome! The festival encourages coming out in costume...whether you dress as an historical era pirate from the Golden Age of Sail or a bejeweled Mardi-Gras Krewmate from New Orleans, whether your taste runs towards Hollywood Swashbucklers or Foreign Buccaneers from international waters! Dress up and share in the experience. This is the largest pirate festival in the country and takes place Father's Day weekend.

### **Rio Vista Bass Derby and Festival**

*Rio Vista, Solano County*

This is the oldest Bass derby on the West Coast. It includes a Bass derby, carnival, food, entertainment, water races and activities, raffles, parade, and fireworks. The derby and festival is in the first weekends of October.

### **Rio Vista Holy Ghost Festa**

*Rio Vista, Solano County*

This long time Portuguese tradition is a celebration honoring Queen Isabel of Portugal. The Festa is a testament to the generosity and love Queen Isabel showed the poor and hungry. There is a parade filled with Queens from the Delta communities and flags and banners that represent the Rio Vista and Isleton Portuguese Club. The festival started in 1899 and continues today, usually on the last weekend of July.

### **Suisun Marsh Field Day**

*Suisun Marsh, Solano County*

Since 1982, the Suisun Marsh Field Day features renowned waterfowl and wildlife artists, free trap shooting and instruction for children, a BB Gun range, Junior Duck calling contest, free junior hunting license, and more. Field Day is the first Saturday of June.

### **Vallejo to San Francisco Yacht Race**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

The first mention of an organized race came in 1925, when PICYA organized a cruise to Vallejo on a Saturday, to be followed by a race back on Sunday. This is the official origin of the Great Vallejo Race, now reputed to be the largest inland regatta in the United States, drawing from 300 to 500 boats annually. Now under the aegis of the Yacht Racing Association of San Francisco Bay, it is a two-day race that marks the official opening of the Bay's racing season.



Photo source: Latitude 38



Photo source: ITC Rowing

### **Whaleboat Races**

*Vallejo, Solano County*

Whaleboat racing competition took its current form in the Bay Area in 1965 under the sponsorship of maritime companies, using U.S. Coast Guard "Monomoys" (also known as lifeboats or whaleboats) built in the 1930's and 40's. By 1982, the Bay Area Whaleboat Rowing Association was formed to provide standards for safety and competition as well as coordinate regattas and other activities. The Whaleboat races are typically the first weekends of September.

### **Yolo Bypass California Duck Days**

*Yolo Bypass, Yolo County*

Duck Days is an annual celebration of California wetlands and wildlife on President's Day weekend. Activities include bird watching and identifying, workshops, bird calling, rice farming demonstrations, decoy carving, and more.



Photo source: The Davis Enterprise

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## Public Lands with Public Access

About 74,000 acres of the Delta and Suisun Marsh are public lands, not including 61,000 acres of open water and 57,000 acres of navigable waterways spread over 700 miles of sloughs and winding channels. Additionally, there are about 7,000 acres of public lands along the Carquinez Strait. These public lands include state parks and recreation areas; ecological reserves and wildlife refuges; fishing areas; and more. Many of these areas support a wide variety of recreation activities, providing opportunities for fishing, hunting, motorized and non-motorized boating, swimming, windsurfing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, hiking, biking, and camping. Some offer trails and options for driving tours, visitor/interpretive centers, and historical sites.

*Special district, state, and federal ownership*

*Numbers coincide with map on next page*

	County	Site Name	Agency
1	Contra Costa	Antioch/Oakley Regional Shoreline	East Bay Regional Parks District
2	Contra Costa	Big Break Regional Shoreline	East Bay Regional Parks District
3	Contra Costa	Carquinez Strait Shoreline	East Bay Regional Parks District
4	Contra Costa	Franks Tract State Recreation Area	California Department of Fish and Game
5	Contra Costa	John Muir National Historic Site	National Park Service
6	Contra Costa	Lone Tree Point	East Bay Regional Parks District
7	Contra Costa	Marsh Creek Trail	East Bay Regional Parks District
8	Contra Costa	Martinez Regional Shoreline	East Bay Regional Parks District
9	Contra Costa	Rhode Island Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
10	Contra Costa	San Pablo Bay Regional Shoreline	East Bay Regional Parks District
11	Contra Costa	Waterbird Regional Preserve	East Bay Regional Parks District
12	Contra Costa	West Pittsburg Park	Ambrose Recreation and Park District
13	Sacramento	Brannan Island Fishing Access	California Department of Fish and Game
14	Sacramento	Brannan Island State Recreation Area	California Department of Parks and Recreation
15	Sacramento	Cliff House Fishing Access	California Department of Fish and Game
		Cosumnes River Ecological Reserve	
16	Sacramento	(partial)*	California Department of Fish and Game
17	Sacramento	Delta Meadows	California Department of Parks and Recreation
18	Sacramento	Lower Sherman Island Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
19	Sacramento	Sherman Island	Other State
20	Sacramento	Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/California Department of Parks and Recreation
21	San Joaquin	White Slough Wildlife Area (partial)	California Department of Fish and Game
22	San Joaquin	Woodbridge Ecological Reserve	California Department of Fish and Game
23	Solano	Belden's Landing Fishing Access	California Department of Fish and Game
24	Solano	Benicia Capitol State Historic Park	California Department of Parks and Recreation
25	Solano	Benicia State Recreation Area	California Department Parks and Recreation
26	Solano	Calhoun Cut Ecological Reserve	California Department of Fish and Game
27	Solano	Decker Island Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
28	Solano	Grizzly Island Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
29	Solano	Hill Slough Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
30	Solano	Miner Slough Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
31	Solano	Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
32	Solano	Peytonia Slough Ecological Reserve	California Department of Fish and Game
33	Solano	Rio Vista Fishing Access	California Department of Fish and Game
34	Solano	Rush Ranch Open Space	Solano Land Trust
35	Solano	San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
36	Solano	Vallejo Fishing Pier	California Department of Fish and Game

37	Yolo	Clarksburg Fishing Access	California Department of Fish and Game
38	Yolo	Sacramento Bypass Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game
39	Yolo	Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	California Department of Fish and Game

\*part of Cosumnes River Preserve, which a portion lies within the proposed boundary. This preserve is jointly managed by The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, Ducks Unlimited, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Water Resources, Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the state Wildlife Conservation Board.

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## ***Descriptions of Public Lands with Public Access***

### **Antioch/Oakley Regional Shoreline**

#### ***Contra Costa County***

A 550-foot pier provides access to great fishing in the San Joaquin River at Antioch/Oakley Regional Shoreline, located just upstream from Highway 160's Nejedly Bridge in Antioch. Fishing, picnicking and kite flying are all favorite activities at this park.



Photo source: East Bay Regional Park District



Photo source: Sierra Club

### **Big Break Regional Shoreline**

#### ***Contra Costa County***

The Big Break Regional Shoreline is a small bay at the edge of the San Joaquin River and home to a wide variety of species, particularly birds and fish. The Delta Science Center is a project being developed at Big Break, which will be utilized for educational purposes and include sampling and testing areas for students, an amphitheater, a picnic area, and a walkway with an artistic replica of the Delta.

### **Carquinez Strait Shoreline**

#### ***Contra Costa County***

Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline comprises 1,415 acres of bluffs and shoreline along Carquinez Scenic Drive between the town of Crockett and the hillsides overlooking Martinez. This parkland provides a gateway to the Delta along the northern edge of Contra Costa County. The coastal hills rise steeply up to 750 feet above Carquinez Strait. From the highest elevations the view includes the marshland of Benicia State Recreation Area to the north across Carquinez Strait. From atop Franklin Ridge along the Franklin Ridge Loop Trail and the California Riding and Hiking Trail, the horizon is pierced by the peaks of Mt. Tamalpais to the west and Mt. Diablo to the east.

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Photo source: East Bay Regional Park District

## **Franks Tract State Recreation Area**

### *Contra Costa County*

Franks Tract State Recreation Area is only accessible by water and is located southeast of Brannan Island between False River and Bethel Island. Franks Tract flooded in 1936 and again in 1938. Very few land forms remain exposed, with the exception of remnant levees. During the fall and winter, a large variety of waterfowl can be found in Franks Tract due to the Delta's key position in the Pacific flyway. Year round residents include gulls, great blue herons, terns, swallows, crows, blackbirds, cormorants, and kingfishers.

## **Lone Tree Point**

### *Contra Costa County*

This small park on the Rodeo shoreline provides expansive views of San Pablo Bay with picnic opportunities.

## **Marsh Creek Trail**

### *Contra Costa County*



Photo source: East Bay Regional Park District

The Marsh Creek Regional Trail, in easternmost Contra Costa County, winds along Marsh Creek through bountiful tracts of farmland. The paved, multi-use trail is about 6.5 miles long and extends from Creekside Park in Brentwood to the wave-lapped Delta shores of Big Break. When completed, the trail will be 14 miles long and will connect the Delta with the wooded foothills of Morgan Territory Regional Preserve and the quiet serenity of Round Valley Regional Park east of Mt. Diablo State Park. Trail users can benefit from several community parks and greenbelts along the way, which offer respite from mid-day summer heat.

## **Martinez Regional Shoreline**

### *Contra Costa County*

The shoreline park offers visitors a variety of experiences. There are group picnic areas, softball fields, bocce ball courts and soccer fields in the eastern section of the park, operated by the City of Martinez. The District operates the western section with its quiet open lawns, small family picnic areas, and ponds and creeks. Nearly three miles of trails offer peaceful walks through the marsh and along the shoreline.



Photo source: East Bay Regional Park District

## **Rhode Island Wildlife Area**

### *Contra Costa County*

Rhode Island Wildlife Area is a 67 acre island. The perimeter of which contains alder, willow, blackberry and tules. The marsh vegetation of tules and cattails exist in water up to several feet deep. Island habitat provides for river otters, beavers, muskrat and many species of birds, including: nesting wood duck; cinnamon teal; mallards; great blue heron, black crowned night heron; common and snowy egrets and other riparian associated passerines.

### **San Pablo Bay Regional Shoreline**

*Contra Costa County*

Point Pinole Regional Shoreline is a 2,315-acre parkland right next to densely populated Pinole, Richmond, and San Pablo. Trails lead through breezy meadows with wildflowers in season, through aromatic eucalyptus woods, or along bluffs and beaches on San Pablo Bay.



Photo source: East Bay Regional Park District

### **Waterbird Regional Preserve**

*Contra Costa County*

Waterbird Regional Preserve is a 198-acre area comprised of a wetland and the associated uplands to the east. The focal point of the Preserve is the rich and diverse Al McNabney Marsh, of which the East Bay Regional Park District owns 46 acres in the southern end and Mountain View Sanitary District owns 69 acres in the northern and deeper end.

### **Brannan Island State Recreation Area**

*Sacramento County*

Brannan Island State Recreation Area has countless islands and marshes with diverse wildlife habitats and many opportunities for recreation, including boating, windsurfing, and swimming. It also has great fishing opportunities for striped bass, sturgeon, catfish, bluegill, perch, bullhead, and more.



Photo source: marinas.com

### **Cosumnes River Ecological Preserve**

*Sacramento County*

This 46,000 acre nature preserve is found at the lower reach of California's Central Valley and protects native habitat such as oak tree savanna, riparian oak forest, and wetlands, which are no longer as prevalent in the region due to agricultural development. The preserve was designated as a National Natural Landmark by NPS in 1976. Activities at the preserve include field trips, educational workshops, wildlife viewing, paddling, hiking and fishing.

### **Delta Meadows**

*Sacramento County*

The area is a prime example of riparian woodlands which were prevalent in the Delta prior to reclamation. Habitat supports different types of wildlife including the river otter, the Delta smelt and the Sacramento chub.

### **Lower Sherman Island Wildlife Area**

#### *Sacramento County*

The Lower Sherman Island Wildlife Area is approximately 3,100 acres, primarily marsh and open water. The area is home to hundreds of different bird species as well as mammals such as river otters, beavers, and minks.

### **Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge**

#### *Sacramento County*

Stone Lakes Refuge acquired its first land in 1994 and was officially designated the 505th unit in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It joined the ranks of other local land management projects, including the Cosumnes River Preserve to the south and the Vic Fazio Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area to the west, to protect and enhance imperiled Central Valley fish and wildlife habitats. Public access recently was enhanced in the refuge with the development of a nature area with an amphitheater, interpretive displays and a small network of trails to nearby wetlands.

### **White Slough Wildlife Area**

#### *San Joaquin County*

The wildlife area consists of 880 acres of man-made ditches, canals (burrow ponds), freshwater marshes, grassland/upland, and riparian habitat. Ponds were created during the construction of Interstate-5. Hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing is available.



Photo source: Department of Fish and Game

### **Woodbridge Ecological Preserve**

#### *San Joaquin County*

One of the key features of this ecological preserve is its greater Sandhill crane communities. This species was listed as threatened in 1983. This reserve comprises part of the Stockton Delta wetlands system which provide the largest area of freshwater marsh wintering habitat in the state, not only for Sandhill cranes but for other waterfowl as well.

### **Belden's Landing Fishing Access**

#### *Solano County*

In the 1980s the Department of Fish & Game purchased this site which has a rich history of Native Americans, commerce, agricultural activities, and more. A public waterway access facility is located where the old ferry crossing carried hunters and fishermen to Grizzly Island and the site of Jim and Mary Belden's landing, who had purchased the harbor in 1945.



Photo source: Solano County

### **Benicia State Capitol Historic Park**

#### *Solano County*

Benicia Capitol State Historic Park is the site of California's third seat of government (1853-54). It is the only pre-Sacramento capitol that survives. The original building has been restored with reconstructed period furnishings and exhibits. The interior includes a board-for-board reconstruction of the building's original floor with ponderosa pine. The desks, three of which are originals from the Benicia period or earlier, are furnished with a candlestick, a 19th century newspaper, a quill pen, and a top hat.

### **Benicia State Recreation Area**

#### *Solano County*

Benicia State Recreation Area covers marsh, grassy hillsides and rocky beaches along the narrowest portion of the Carquinez Strait. Cyclists, runners, walkers, equestrians, and roller skaters enjoy the park's 2 1/2 miles of road and bike paths. Picnicking, bird watching and fishing are also attractions.



Photo source: Association of Bay Area Governments

### **Decker Island Wildlife Area**

#### *Solano County*

Decker Island, a 648-acre island, is just south of Rio Vista and surrounded by the Sacramento River and Horseshoe Bend. The island was created in the early 1900s when the Sacramento River was dredged and the spoils were placed on top of existing wetlands.



Photo source: San Francisco Chronicle

### **Grizzly Island Wildlife Area**

#### *Solano County*

The Grizzly Island Wildlife Area is temporarily open throughout the year for elk and rabbit hunting. Non-hunting activities, such as hiking, nature viewing, dog-training, etc. are available. The area is closed during the winter for seasonal flooding.

### **Hill Slough Wildlife Area**

#### *Solano County*

Hill Slough consists of 1,723 acres of salt tidal marsh, managed marshes, sloughs and upland grassland. The area supports a wide variety of waterfowl, including pintail, mallard, shoveler, green-winged teal, and wigeon. Raptors such as northern harriers, white-tailed kites, kestrels, and red-tailed hawks can be seen hunting the grasslands. Mammals including raccoons, jackrabbits, and voles make their homes here and often provide a meal for coyotes.

### **Miner Slough Wildlife Area**

#### *Solano County*

The area is 37 acres in size with approximately 10 acres remaining above the water at high tide, making up one small island and a narrow peninsula extending from Prospect Island. Riparian vegetation includes willows, cottonwoods, tules, and blackberries; which support wildlife species, such as beaver, black-crowned night heron, and a variety of waterfowl.

### **Napa-Sonoma Wildlife Areas**

#### *Solano County*

This wildlife area consists of over 13,000 acres of saltwater ponds, tidal marshes, and wetlands, just north of San Pablo Bay. Many waterfowl species and shorebirds including the California clapper rail can be found here. Most of the area is accessible only by boat.



Photo source: Department of Fish and Game

### **Peytonia Slough Ecological Preserve**

#### *Solano County*

The Peytonia Slough Ecological Preserve is a 520 acre open access preserve. Boating, fishing, nature viewing, and hiking are permitted.



Photo source: Rush Ranch

### **Rush Ranch Open Space**

#### *Solano County*

Rush Ranch is a 2,070-acre open space area located in southern Solano County, bordered on one side by the Suisun Marsh. Rush Ranch has vast open spaces of tranquil rolling grasslands and an abundance of bird and wildlife viewing opportunities.

### **San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

#### *Solano County*

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge lies along the north shore of San Pablo Bay in Sonoma, Solano, and Napa Counties in northern California. The refuge includes open bay/tidal marsh, mud flats, and seasonal and managed wetland habitats.

### **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area**

#### *Yolo County*

The Yolo Bypass contains the Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area and was the largest public/private restoration project in the United States west of the Florida Everglades. It forms a valuable wetland for much of the year and is used for agriculture in the summer. It is part of the Yolo Bypass flood control channel, and is compatible with the flood control processes.



Photo source: Yolo Basin Foundation

## **Recreational Resources in the Proposed NHA**

Over 1,000 miles of navigable waterways exist throughout the Delta making it a recreational haven for locals and visitors alike. Specific recreational activities include boating, fishing, windsurfing, hunting, birdwatching, and more. The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for law enforcement and public safety throughout the Delta's waterways. Private recreation facilities and other businesses serving visitors also support recreation in the region. There are almost 100 marinas found throughout the Delta, some of which offer camping, cabin rentals, picnic facilities, boat launches, houseboat rentals, and fishing access. Private yacht clubs also exist throughout the Delta, as well as a handful of private duck clubs, and a few private golf courses. Private excursion vessels departing from Antioch, Pittsburg, Stockton, Sacramento, Suisun City, and Walnut Grove offer additional ways for visitors to explore the region. Much of the land in Suisun Marsh is owned by private duck clubs though public waterfowl hunting areas are found there as well. Other recreational activities at the Marsh include wildlife viewing, hiking, and canoeing. The Carquinez Strait is also an ideal place for water-based recreation including fishing, boating, and windsurfing.

Restaurants, hotels, wineries, galleries, gift shops, and farm stands exist throughout the Delta which can help support the visitor's experience. The Clarksburg appellation in the Northern Delta contains many of the region's wineries, including the Old Sugar Mill with six wineries in one location. The Delta Discovery Center is also a key attraction located outside of Rio Vista, and includes the Delta Farmer's Market. The Delta Loop is a 10 mile scenic drive along the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers with over 40 attractions. It is an ideal spot for exploring the Delta by car or boat and includes marinas, resorts, RV parks, restaurants, bars, gift shops, and more.

## **Regional Trail Systems**

A number of regional trail systems exist throughout the Delta, Suisun Marsh and Carquinez Strait. These trail systems help link the region's recreational, cultural, historical and natural resources sites to one another, and also help connect the region to outside communities.

### **American Discovery Trail**

The ADT is a multi-use patchwork of existing trails and paved roads. The trail stretches across more than 6,800 miles, and is the only coast-to-coast, non motorized recreational trail. From Discovery Park in Sacramento, the ADT crosses the American River and follows a levee trail along the Sacramento River to Old Sacramento. Leaving Old Sacramento and following city streets, the ADT passes by the magnificent historic state capital building and the Sacramento City Cemetery. After leaving Sacramento, the ADT passes for over 50 miles of the Delta using levee roads, and going through the small towns of Freeport, Clarksburg, Locke, Walnut Grove, and Isleton.

### **Bay Area Ridge Trail**

The Bay Area Ridge Trail is a planned 550+-mile multi-use trail (currently over 330 miles are complete) along the hill and mountain ridgelines ringing the San Francisco Bay Area. When complete, the trail will connect over 75 parks and open spaces. The trail is being designed to provide access for hikers, runners, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians. It will be accessible through trailheads near major population centers, and extend into more remote areas. Portions of it are along the Carquinez Strait in Contra Costa and Solano Counties.



### **Juan Bautista de Anza Historical Trail**

In 1776, as Americans fought for independence in the East, Juan Bautista de Anza led more than 240 people over 1200 miles to settle Alta California. It was the first overland route established to connect New Spain with San Francisco. The historic trail retraces their footsteps from Nogales, Arizona to San Francisco; and passes along the Carquinez Strait and through the Contra Costa County portion of the Delta.

### **Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail**

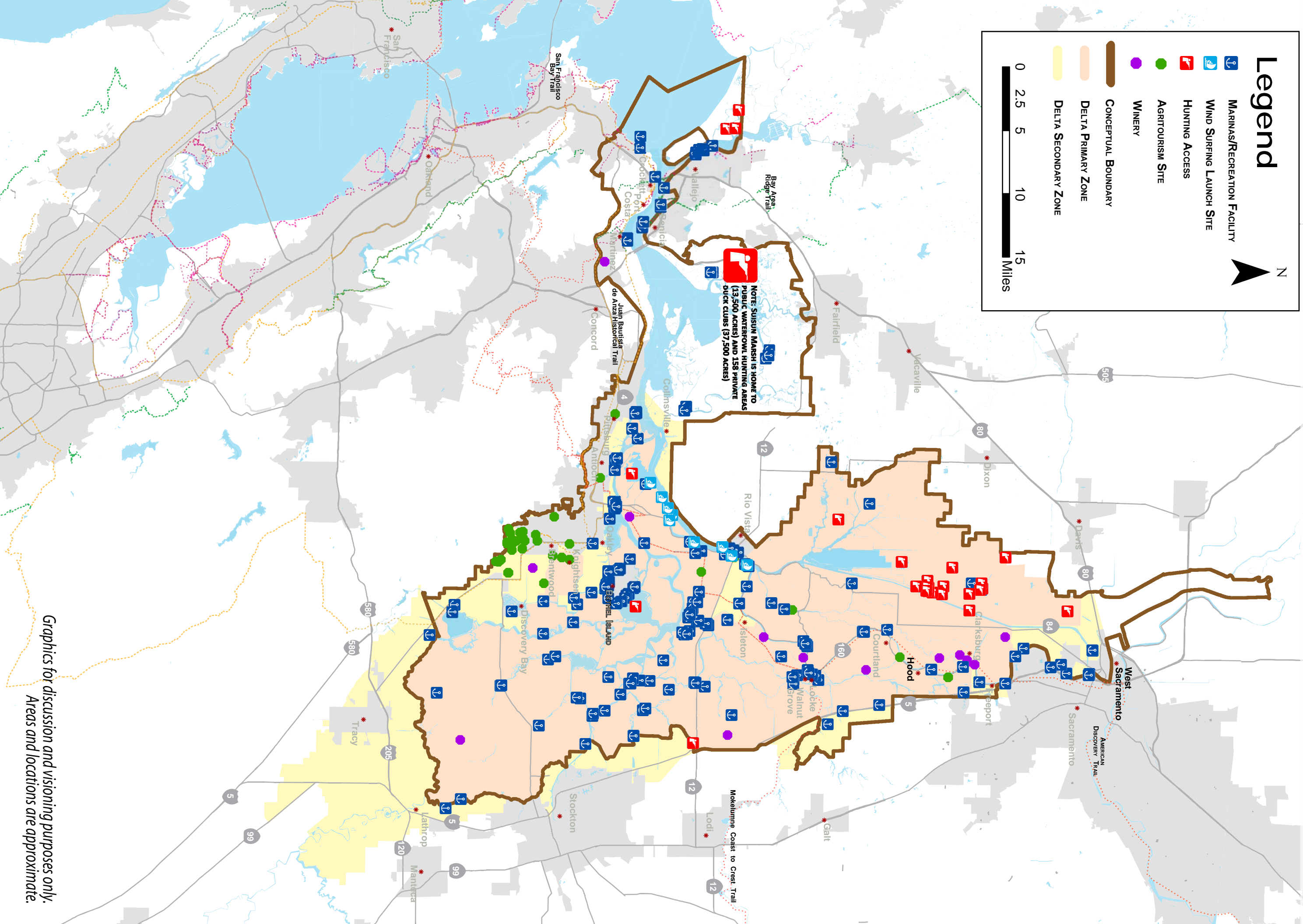
This trail crosses the San Francisco Bay to Pacific Crest Trail in the Sierras and passes through East Bay Regional Parkland, Mt. Diablo State Park, and the Stanislaus National Forest. In the Delta it goes through the cities of Antioch, Rio Vista and Isleton. Currently the Delta segment of the trail is in the pre-planning phase and will likely be a water trail along the Mokelumne River.

### **San Francisco Bay Trail**

The San Francisco Bay Trail offers access to commercial, industrial and residential neighborhoods; points of historic, natural and cultural interest; recreational areas like beaches, marinas, fishing piers, boat launches, and over 130 parks and wildlife preserves totaling 57,000 acres of open space. It passes through highly urbanized areas like downtown San Francisco as well as remote natural areas like the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Depending on the location of its segments, the Bay Trail consists of paved multi-use paths, dirt trails, bike lanes, sidewalks or city streets signed as bike routes. The Bay Trail passes through portions on Contra Costa and Solano Counties along the Carquinez Strait, connects to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and will likely connect to the future Great California Delta Trail.



# Recreational Sites of the Proposed Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area



Graphics for discussion and visioning purposes only.  
Areas and locations are approximate.

## Chapter 9 – NHA Management

### ***Management Entity***

The management entity is the organization responsible for developing the NHA management plan, raising and administering funds, running projects, conducting public outreach and other necessary work to manage the NHA consistent with the NHA's mission, vision, and goals. NEPA compliance must also be integrated into the management planning process, due to the federal funding involved and the adoption of the management plan by the Secretary of the Interior. Organizations which have served to manage existing NHAs include: nonprofits (the most common type), federal commissions, state agencies, and public corporations. The management entity should be composed of a diverse membership of representatives from local stakeholder groups to ensure that the full spectrum of varied interests is involved in decision making. Representatives from NPS serve on NHA management entities in advisory, non-voting roles.

One key task of the management entity is to acquire funds to meet the 50% cash matching requirements for the federal financial awards which may become available upon NHA designation. Total federal funding ranges from \$150,000 to \$1,000,000, with a maximum of \$1,000,000 per year for 10 years, though awards have generally declined in recent years. It may not be possible to identify specific amounts of federal resources during the feasibility study process, but what may be gauged is the past or potential capacity and creativity of the management entity to attract financial support.

This chapter proposes the DPC should serve as the management entity for the Delta NHA with a new or existing nonprofit, private 501c3 serving as a partner organization to assist with fundraising.

### **Delta Protection Commission**

The DPC was established by the Delta Protection Act of 1992 and has a mission to adaptively protect, maintain, and where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment consistent with the Delta Protection Act and the Delta Plan. This includes, but is not limited to, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities. The DPC's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta is the planning document of which consistency is required by local government general plans whose jurisdictions fall within the Primary Zone.

The DPC was mandated with conducting this feasibility study through SB X7-1, but this legislation did not identify a NHA management entity. However, the 2011 Delta NHA legislation introduced by Feinstein and Garamendi (appendix 1 and 2, respectively) does identify the DPC as the management entity.

The DPC is a locally recognized agency in the Delta and has an extensive network of local stakeholders to whom it conducts regular outreach to. The DPC is governed by 15 members, with representation from the following organizations:

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors	Central Delta Reclamation Districts
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors	North Delta Reclamation Districts
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors	South Delta Reclamation Districts
Solano County Board of Supervisors	Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Yolo County Board of Supervisors	Department of Food and Agriculture
Cities of Contra Costa and Solano Counties	Natural Resources Agency
Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties	State Lands Commission
Cities of San Joaquin County	

While the proposed NHA boundaries extend beyond the Delta's Primary Zone, this would not extend the DPC's authority outside of the Primary Zone as no land use authority is granted with NHA designation. As the NHA management entity, the DPC would play an administrative role for projects throughout the NHA boundaries, utilizing the NHA management plan as the guiding document. Previously, the DPC has administered projects that fall outside of the Delta, including links of the Delta Trail in the Benicia State Recreation Area and Glen Cove Waterfront in Solano County. Both of these projects included the DPC working in partnership with local organizations to seek funding, and conduct project planning and implementation. NHA projects would be carried out in a similar nature.

### **Advisory Committees**

Advisory committees would be developed for NHA management in order to bring the diversity of perspectives and expertise to the table to ensure that NHA activities are carried out in ways which are aligned with the varied interests, capabilities and infrastructure of the region. The NHA management plan would need to be developed within three years upon adoption of the feasibility study by Congress. Upon commencement of the management plan development, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) would be formed to provide regular input throughout the process. The TAC will include local agency staff whose jurisdiction fall within the NHA boundaries, including staff from all five Delta counties. Members from a spectrum of local stakeholder groups (representing recreation, businesses, cultural and natural resources, landowners, agriculture, etc.) would be invited to serve on the SAC.

### **A new or existing nonprofit organization**

A new or existing nonprofit 501c3 organization could serve as a key partner organization to assist with fundraising. Nonprofit organizations are the most common NHA management entities, and generally function as public charities.

### **Funding Capabilities**

Funding for the Delta NHA could be sought from a variety of sources, including state and local governments, foundations, philanthropy contributions from corporations, and individuals from

the Delta and surrounding area. Current economic conditions have been particularly challenging for federal, state, and local governments, and nonprofit organizations. However, as other NHAs have shown, obtaining stature and recognition on a national level can help lead to increased funding opportunities.

A matrix of potential grant funding opportunities can be found in appendix 5. These funding opportunities are of relevance to a Delta NHA based on the nature of projects which they fund, including: marketing/promotion, historic preservation, education/interpretation, tourism/recreation, and more. Many of these programs offer cash grants and therefore could be potential sources of the 50% match requirement for federal funding granted with NHA designation. The matrix outlines the funding organizations, grant names, eligible projects, due dates, award amounts, matching requirements, eligible applicants, and websites. Some of the information outlined in the matrix is taken from previous funding cycles, and the specifics may change with time.

### ***Compatible Projects***

The DPC facilitates a number of existing projects that hold potential compatibility with a Delta NHA. These projects are all examples of community driven approaches to the conservation of the Delta's resources (ecological, recreational, agricultural, economic, etc.), and therefore reflective of the DPC's capabilities of working with local stakeholder groups on projects that are beneficial to the Delta environment. Means by which a Delta NHA could further enhance these projects are summarized in the sections below.

### ***Abandoned Vessel Removal***

The DPC facilitates coordination amongst local government law enforcement officials, resource managers and planners, building officials, and interested parties to develop solutions to the growing environmental and enforcement problems of abandoned vessels in the Delta. The group has developed a list of tools to address the issue and is pursuing further actions to ensure that abandoned vessels are removed throughout the waterways of all five Delta counties. As an expected outcome of NHA designation in the Delta is an increase in visibility of the region as a recreational destination, the Delta NHA will further illuminate the need for clean and navigable waterways which is of utmost importance for water-based recreation in the Delta. A Delta NHA can help draw local, state, and national attention to these issues and potentially identify necessary policy changes and funding opportunities to ensure the safety and navigability of Delta waterways.

### ***Agritourism Programs***

The DPC supports programs to encourage agritourism as an economic enhancement method and an educational tool for the sustainability of the Delta. The DPC has assisted the UC Small Farm Program with hosting workshops in the Delta on the topic of agritourism development, incorporated agritourism as an objective in other recreational planning processes, and will continue to pursue opportunities for agritourism programs in the future. Goals of the Delta NHA include the promotion of Delta agritourism, as well as supporting economic development by drawing visitors to sites which may include local markets, farmstays, wineries, and other

agritourism ventures. With NHA designation, additional projects can be developed, such as interpretive panels, museums, school programs, and more, to educate people not just on current Delta agriculture, but also on its rich agricultural history. The UC Small Farm Program can be a potential partner for agritourism initiatives the stem from a Delta NHA by assisting with activities such as education, networking, and marketing to help further enhance and develop Delta agritourism.

### **California Coastal Cleanup Day**

The DPC annually hosts California Coastal Cleanup Day sites along waterways in all five Delta counties. Efforts have led to thousands of pounds of garbage being removed by dozens of volunteers every year. A Delta NHA can help bring further visibility to the necessity of maintaining a clean Delta, and therefore help to attract volunteers to cleanup day sites and bring together potential partners such as the Delta counties, environmental groups, and recreational organizations. These efforts can help further enhance the aesthetic and environmental integrity of the Delta, which can in turn maintain the Delta as an entrancing place for outdoor recreation and tourism.



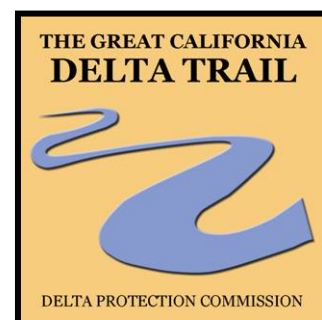
2010 Coastal Cleanup Day Volunteers in Contra Costa County

### **Delta Working Landscapes**

Delta Working Landscape projects assist farmers in integrating agricultural activities with ecosystem restoration; and include infiltration ditches, levee revegetation, and waterfowl habitat development. These projects have been done in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Hart Restoration Inc., local landowners, and reclamation districts. Project implementation has occurred in Clarksburg along Elk Slough, and on Lower Jones Tract in Stockton. A Delta NHA will encourage public education about the Delta's ecological and agricultural importance, which can lead to greater recognition of the Delta's resources, establish partnerships between private landowners and participating organizations, and identify funding sources for more projects throughout the Delta. Goals of the Delta NHA include ecotourism and environmental education, and projects such as those could be undertaken at working landscape sites which have visitor access, thus helping with economic diversification in these areas.

### **The Great California Delta Trail**

Recognizing the unique natural resources of the Delta, the growing demands for public access to these resources, and the increasing recognition of the importance of outdoor recreation in addressing childhood obesity, the California Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, Senate Bill 1556 (Torlakson) supporting the creation of a Delta Trail network to go through portions of all five



Delta counties. The DPC has been mandated to facilitate and complete the feasibility, planning, and implementation process for the trail. To-date, Delta Trail blueprint reports have been completed for Contra Costa and Solano Counties and are being initiated for the remaining three Delta counties. The Delta Trail can be a way to bring persons to the Delta and direct them to sites of cultural or ecological significance. If NHA designation is granted, the NHA can be used as a regional marketing tool to increase visitation to the Delta, therefore leading to an increase in Delta Trail users which could help establish future Delta Trail links and potentially open up additional funding sources. The Friends of the Great California Delta Trail can serve as a potential partner for NHA initiatives, particularly surrounding NHA sites that are adjacent to Delta Trail links.

### ***Project Support***

Support for this project has been expressed by a number of organizations, including the following:

Antioch Historical Society  
Bay Point Garden Club  
California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau  
California Preservation Foundation  
California State Parks  
Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust  
Contra Costa County  
Delta Peddlers Bicycle Club  
Dutra Museum Foundation  
Friends of the Great California Delta Trail  
Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society  
Isleton Chambers of Commerce  
Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Recreational Boaters of California  
Rio Vista, City of  
Sacramento County  
San Joaquin County  
Solano County  
Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District  
UC Small Farm Program  
Visit California  
West Sacramento, City of

Letters of support can be found in appendix 6.

### ***Partnership Commitments***

Partnership development is a crucial component of planning and management of a NHA. Projects that stem from the partnerships reflect the ownership that local stakeholders hold for

the NHA as well as the control and capabilities that are vested at the local level to recognize, maintain and enhance the heritage resources of the region. A handful of organizations have expressed interest in serving as partners, to assist with various activities that may stem from NHA designation. These commitments all involve in-kind assistance, as staff time is available. These partnerships are summarized below, and further detail can be found in the support/commitment letters (appendix 6):

- **Bay Point Garden Club**

The Bay Point Garden Club hosts the Annual Bay Point Spring Derby on Memorial Day. It is a festival and parade which celebrates the diverse heritages in the Bay Point Region. This festival will closely align with the proposed Delta NHA theme #3: 'Multi-cultural contributions and experiences have shaped the Delta's rural landscape.' A Delta NHA will be a valuable tool to help highlight and attract visitors to the Spring Derby and other cultural events. The Garden Club has agreed to serve as a partner by providing local outreach and awareness to citizens of the Bay Point Region.

- **California Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau**

The Delta Chambers and Visitors Bureau is an organization comprised of local chambers of commerce, visitors bureaus, businesses, and booster clubs; and serves to enhance Delta recreation and tourism. The Delta Chambers can serve as a partner by assisting with outreach to economic and recreation organizations in the Delta, identification of potential NHA partner sites, and assistance with marketing/promoting NHA activities.

- **California Preservation Foundation**

The California Preservation Foundation is the only nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of California's architectural heritage. The foundation is currently working with the City of Isleton to develop and approve a Historic Preservation Plan and Ordinance to preserve the city's National Register District and increase tourism. The Foundation has offered their technical assistance for a Delta NHA through the Field Services Program. This assistance will help with direct support for historic preservation on NHA sites.

- **Contra Costa County**

Contra Costa County is shared by the San Francisco Bay Area and Delta Region, and has an extensive waterfront along the San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, and the Delta. A number of the communities in the county lie within the proposed Delta NHA boundary including: Port Costa, Martinez, Pittsburg, Antioch, Oakley, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Brentwood, and Discovery Bay. The County has committed staff time to participate in the TAC that will be developed upon commencement of a Delta NHA management planning process.

- **Dutra Museum Foundation**

The Dutra family has been involved with Delta dredging since 1904, and has played a very active role in levee maintenance and farmland protection. The Dutra Museum is a private collection of materials that interpret the history of clamshell dredging in the Delta. The

Museum's collection is closely linked to the proposed NHA theme #2: 'Conversion of the Delta from marshland to farmland was one of the largest reclamation projects in the United States.' The Foundation has agreed to serve as partners by providing assistance with projects related to educating and promoting the history of dredging in the Delta.

- **Friends of the Great California Delta Trail**

The Friends of the Great California Delta Trail works to gain community support and awareness for links of the Delta Trail and recognizes the unmet recreational needs in the Delta. The Friends of the Great California Delta Trail can assist a Delta NHA through local outreach and public awareness about the NHA and partner sites that are adjacent to the Delta Trail links.

- **Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society**

The Historical Society is committed to the preservation and promotion of the history of Isleton and the surrounding Delta area. The Historical Society can serve as partners with tasks including public outreach, and the identification of historical resources which could serve as partner sites.

- **Isleton Chamber of Commerce**

The Isleton Chamber of Commerce has been working with the city of Isleton and the California Preservation Foundation, on the Historic Preservation Plan and Ordinance to help with preservation and enhancement of Isleton's historic buildings. The Chamber can serve as partners relative with local historic preservation and economic development of Isleton.

- **Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council**

The Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail Council is a nonprofit corporation helping to develop and maintain the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail (MCCT) – a 300-mile non-motorized, multi-use trail system roughly following the Mokelumne River from the Sierra crest headwaters, through the Delta, and down to the river's opening at the Carquinez Strait. Currently, the Delta section of the MCCT is in the pre-planning phase. The Council could serve as partners for NHA activities that are related to the planning, recognition, enhancement, and development of the MCCT or resource sites that support the MCCT, which could include the installation of visitor amenities such as public restrooms, garbage receptacles, directional signage, and dockage along the MCCT.

- **Sacramento County**

A number of the Delta's 'Legacy Communities' are found in Sacramento County, including: Freeport, Hood, Courtland, Locke, Walnut Grove, and Isleton. These rivertowns contain resources reflective of the Delta's rich history, and are important centers to support the Delta's economy. Sacramento County can serve as partners by providing assistance, as staff time allows, with tasks including public outreach, acquiring data for the NHA management plan, and collaboration on NHA projects within the county.

- **UC Small Farm Program**

The UC Small Farm Program assists small and family farms in California so that they remain sustainable, dynamic, and viable parts of their community. The UC Small Farm Program has previously partnered with the DPC to hold workshops on establishing agritourism in the Delta. Efforts such as this closely align with the Delta NHA goals of encouraging Delta agritourism and promoting economic development. The Small Farm Program has agreed to partner on NHA activities related to agritourism which may include facilitating discussions and networking, investigating funding sources for agritourism promotion, local outreach, and more.

- **Visit California**

Visit California is a nonprofit organization which strives to develop and maintain marketing programs to keep California as a premier travel destination. The organization understands the importance of promoting the Delta to domestic and international travelers to support economic development and public education of the Delta. Visit California can identify and market Delta NHA partner sites on their website.

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## Chapter 10 – Local Protection Measures

The DPC fully supports the protection of private property rights and NHA status should not implicate private property rights. The DPC will work to ensure that there will be no negative impacts stemming from NHA activities on private property, should the designation occur. The protection of agricultural integrity and viability in the Delta has been a key priority of the DPC since its formation and will continue to be so regardless of a Delta NHA designation.

Throughout the feasibility study process, a number of stakeholders have expressed concerns on a Delta NHA's impacts to private property rights and agricultural practices. Specific concerns have included:

1. Increased land use authority and/or land acquisition authority.
2. Increased restrictions on agricultural practices (e.g., spraying) that could result from an increase in visitors to the region.
3. Increased visitors to the Delta that could cause problems such as vandalism, theft, trespassing, etc., to agricultural areas.
4. Lack of oversight and management in recreational areas that could have negative implications (e.g., solid waste) on farmland.

This section outlines each of these concerns, along with approaches to address them.

### ***Concern #1 - Increased Land Use Authority/Land Acquisition Authority***

Concerns have been expressed by local stakeholders that land use authority and/or land acquisition authority will be granted to the management entity with NHA designation. However, research conducted indicates that these authorities are not granted with NHA designation; and enabling legislation and opt-out provisions can further protect private property owners.

### **Interviews**

DPC staff conducted interviews with directors from several existing NHAs regarding private property rights implications. Representatives stated that similar concerns have been expressed during their feasibility study processes, however these concerns were alleviated with time as citizens realized that NHAs do not threaten property rights. Summary points of these interviews conclude:

- No federal strings are attached with NHA designation.
- No power is given to management entities which supersede local decisions.
- Property owners can opt-out from being involved in the NHA.

Detailed outlines of these interviews can be found in appendix 3.

## GAO Report

A study by the General Accounting Office (GAO), now called the Government Accountability Office, was released in 2004 which amongst other things examined any effects that NHAs have on private property rights.<sup>1</sup> This study was conducted as property rights advocates had raised a number of concerns about the potential effects of NHAs on private property rights and land use. Twenty-four NHAs were in existence at the time. The study concluded:

*"...officials at the 24 heritage areas, Park Service headquarters and regional staff working with these areas, and representatives of six national property rights groups that we contacted were unable to provide us with a single example of a heritage area directly affecting-positively or negatively-private property values or use."*

## Enabling Legislation

The 2011 legislation for a Delta NHA, introduced by Dianne Feinstein, as well as the companion legislation introduced by John Garamendi (appendices 1 and 2 respectively), included private property and regulatory protections as follows:

### SEC. 3. SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA HERITAGE AREA.

#### *(h) Private Property and Regulatory Protections-*

##### *(1) IN GENERAL- Subject to paragraph (2), nothing in this Act--*

*(A) abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the Heritage Area;*

*(B) requires any property owner to permit public access (including access by Federal, State, or local agencies) to the property of the property owner, or to modify public access or use of property of the property owner under any other Federal, State, or local law;*

*(C) alters any duly adopted land use regulation, approved land use plan, or other regulatory authority of any Federal, State or local agency, or conveys any land use or other regulatory authority to the management entity;*

*(D) authorizes or implies the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights;*

*(E) diminishes the authority of the State to manage fish and wildlife, including the regulation of fishing and hunting within the Heritage Area; or*

*(F) creates any liability, or affects any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any person injured on the private property.*

*(2) OPT OUT- An owner of private property within the Heritage Area may opt out of participating in any plan, project, program, or activity carried out within the Heritage Area under this Act, if the property owner provides written notice to the management entity.*

The feasibility study for a Santa Cruz Valley NHA in Arizona includes specific language regarding private property and regulatory protections. This is quite similar to the language developed in the Feinstein legislation, with additional measures, as follows:

***(b) Private Property Owner Protection-***

*(1) No privately owned property shall be preserved, conserved, or promoted by the management plan for the National Heritage Area until the owner of that private property has been notified in writing by the management entity and has given written consent for such preservation, conservation, or promotion to the management entity.*

*(2) Any owner of private property included within the boundary of the National Heritage Area shall have their property immediately removed from within the boundary by submitting a written request to the management entity.*

**Opt-out provisions**

In addition to language in the proposed enabling legislation, *existing* federal legislation allows property owners to opt out from participation in the NHA. Sec. 127 of Public Law 111-88-Oct. 30, 2009 states:

*Any owner of private property within an existing or new National Heritage Area may opt out of participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area if the property owner provides written notice to the local coordinating entity.*

In summary, no land use authority or land acquisition authority is granted with NHA designation. Enabling legislation can provide further protection if concerns remain, and existing opt-out provisions allow private property owners to opt-out from NHA plans, projects, programs or activities.

***Concern #2 - Restrictions on agricultural practices***

Some concerns voiced from local stakeholders include that increases in recreational uses of the Delta, which may stem from NHA designation, will trigger nuisance complaints that will lead to restrictions on specific farming practices. Certain agricultural operations may result in noises, odors, dust, chemicals, smoke, and hours of operation, that may be in conflict with recreational activities. While these concerns are certainly valid, existing measures are in place to help protect agricultural practices from being negatively impacted by recreational activities, including Right-to-Farm Ordinances, and the Delta Protection Commission's Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta. A Delta NHA will not impact these as NHA designation has no regulatory authority and cannot supersede existing local and state regulations.

### **Right-to-farm ordinances**

Each of the five Delta counties have Right-to-Farm ordinances, which were developed to protect landowners from any restrictions stemming from nuisance complaints in areas where non-agricultural land uses exist adjacent to or nearby agricultural lands. Right-to-Farm ordinances would not be impacted by NHA designation. Each of the five Delta counties' Right-to-Farm ordinances can be found in appendix 4.

### **Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta**

The DPC supports the protection of agricultural practices. The Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Plan) was adopted by the DPC in 1995, and updated in 2010. It is required that all local general plans within the Primary Zone are consistent with the Plan. Goals and policies of the Plan support agriculture, and seek to minimize conflicts between agriculture and recreation. Relevant policies are as follows:

#### *Land Use*

*Policy 2 - Local government general plans, as defined in Government Code Section 65300 et seq., and zoning codes shall continue to promote and facilitate agriculture and agriculturally-supporting commercial and industrial uses as the primary land uses in the Primary Zone; recreation and natural resources land uses shall be supported in appropriate locations and where conflicts with agricultural land uses or other beneficial uses can be minimized.*

*Policy 3 - New non-agriculturally oriented residential, recreational, commercial, habitat, restoration, or industrial development shall ensure that appropriate buffer areas are provided by those proposing new development to prevent conflicts between any proposed use and existing adjacent agricultural parcels. Buffers shall adequately protect integrity of land for existing and future agricultural uses and shall not include uses that conflict with agricultural operations on adjacent agricultural lands. Appropriate buffer setbacks shall be determined in consultation with local Agricultural Commissioners, and shall be based on applicable general plan policies and criteria included in Right-to-Farm Ordinances adopted by local jurisdictions.*

#### *Natural Resources*

*Policy 1 - Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Delta. Promote protection of remnants of riparian and aquatic habitat. Encourage compatibility between agricultural practices, recreational uses and wildlife habitat.*

#### *Recreation & Access: Including Marine Patrol, Boater Education, and Safety Programs*

*Policy 4 - Encourage new regional recreational opportunities, such as Delta-wide trails, which take into consideration environmental, agricultural, infrastructure, and law enforcement needs, and private property boundaries. Also, encourage opportunities for water, hiking, and biking trails.*

*Policy 11 - Recognizing existing laws, encourage establishment of Delta-wide law enforcement protocols on local public nuisance and safety issues, such as trespassing, littering, and theft.*

The full Plan can be viewed online at: [www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)

***Concern #3 - Increased visitors to the region will result in conflicts such as vandalism, theft, trespassing, etc. to agricultural areas.***

Objectives of NHA designation include the promotion of tourism and recreational activities, which has triggered concerns amongst private landowners in the Delta regarding potential conflicts from unwanted visitors on farmlands. Concerns include that persons will engage in activities on private farmlands including trespassing, theft, vandalism, etc. While these concerns are certainly valid, it is also important to remember that many of the proposed projects and resources surrounding NHA designation are focused on the enhancement of existing public lands and historic areas of the Delta, rather than the development of new facilities, and therefore traffic circulation in the Delta for recreation and tourism would presumably follow similar patterns as they currently do.

As discussed earlier, private property does not need to be included in the NHA and opt-out provisions would be included in the enabling legislation. If a property owner opts-out it would mean that their particular property would not be included in any NHA maps or promotional material, therefore reducing the visibility of their property to visitors and reducing any associated negative impacts.

It is also important to mention that the development of regional trail systems is not included as an objective of NHA designation. However, there are other planning efforts underway for the implementation of regional trails in the Delta. SB 1556 mandated the DPC to complete the feasibility, planning and implementation process for a Great California Delta Trail, which would be a recreation corridor throughout all five Delta counties, connecting to the San Francisco Bay Trail and planned Sacramento River Trails. Currently a blueprint report has been completed for the Delta Trail Planning in Contra Costa and Solano Counties and a blueprint report for Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo Counties is being initiated. Master Planning will be the next step in the trail planning process, which will identify potential specific links of the Delta trail. Throughout Delta Trail planning, DPC staff will work closely with local governments, as well as representatives from diverse groups in each county including habitat, agriculture, business, and recreation organizations, to ensure that Delta Trail planning is closely aligned with the varied interests, capabilities and infrastructure of each county. Existing public lands will be identified as key places for Delta Trail implementation. Tools such as fee purchases, easements, licenses, and MOUs can be explored to acquire property access in relevant areas, with the consent and involvement of willing landowners. Water trails will also be a key component of the Delta Trail system, and can be a viable option to ensure trail continuity in places where land trails are not feasible, however sensitive habitat and wildlife areas will not be adversely affected by the trail. Buffer zones will be implemented between the trail and places with sensitive wildlife habitat

and private uses. Further concerns about the Delta Trail should be brought to the DPC during the Delta Trail planning processes.

***Concern #4 - Lack of oversight and management in recreational areas that would have negative implications (e.g., solid waste) on farmland.***

An increase in visitors to the Delta could result in an increase in persons who litter, which could travel by water or wind to Delta farmland. While a goal of the Delta NHA is to highlight partner sites for visitor usage, a goal is also to increase visitor amenities (such as waste receptacles, public restrooms, etc.) to accommodate an increase in visitors. Seed money and leveraged funds from NHA designation would likely be funneled to certain partner sites to develop these amenities. Additionally, an increase in visitors would also presumably help the partner sites become more economically sustainable, and therefore lead to an increase in staffing to monitor visitor activities.

While it is impossible to predict the specific implications that an increase in visitors to the region will have, it is also important to remember that the management entity will be composed of local representation, from stakeholder groups including agriculture, habitat, and recreation, with regular meetings open to the public. If negative implications do result from NHA activities, the management entity will work to resolve conflicts.

The following are policies from the Plan which address issues of concern regarding littering and lack of enforcement in recreational areas.

***Recreation & Access: Including Marine Patrol, Boater Education, and Safety Programs***

*Policy 1 - Ensure appropriate planning, development and funding for expansion, ongoing maintenance and supervision of existing public recreation and access areas.*

*Policy 11 - Recognizing existing laws, encourage establishment of Delta-wide law enforcement protocols on local public nuisance and safety issues, such as trespassing, littering, and theft.*

Again, the full Plan can be viewed online at: [www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)

<sup>1</sup>United States General Accounting Office. "National Park Service, A More Systematic Process for Establishing National Heritage Areas and Actions to Improve Their Accountability Are Needed." 2004.

## Chapter 11 – Evaluation According to Federal Criteria

NPS has ten suggested criteria to assess whether an area qualifies as a NHA. This section explains a Delta NHA, as outlined in this feasibility study, in the context of each criterion.

*1. An area has an assemblage of natural, historic, or cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed as such an assemblage through partnerships among public and private entities, and by combining diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities.*

Natural, historic, and cultural resources exist throughout the Delta that represent the Delta's nationally significant heritage. These resources include museums, historic districts, public parks, recreation areas, agritourism facilities, and more. These resources are unique and valuable in regards to the existing activities and future opportunities which they hold for heritage interpretation and education. However many of the facilities have limitations in terms of their marketing abilities, hours of operation, and options for expansion due to limited staffing and financial resources. Currently there is no facilitator organization in the Delta which links these different sites together. An organization such as that could help with tasks of regional marketing/branding, developing physical and organizational linkages, and improving visitor access and understanding. A Delta NHA could be a tool to bind these different resources together into an identifiable and marketable 'Delta-brand' which could help with economic enhancement for the region as a whole, as well as for the individual sites.

*2. Reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife that are a valuable part of the national story.*

As the proposed themes have illustrated, there are many levels in which the Delta's traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklife are a valuable part of the national story. Due to the Delta's geographical location and its precious natural resources, the Delta has attracted persons from around the world who have utilized and shaped the landscape in ways that are unmatched anywhere else in the United States. Techniques and equipment developed for Delta agriculture and reclamation have been used throughout the world to help revolutionize these practices. A number of ethnic groups that established communities in the Delta still recognize their heritage in events or museums, including the Dai Loy museum in Locke, the Isleton Asian Celebration, and the Rio Vista Holy Ghost Festa. Other annual festivals in the Delta reflect the pride that residents have for Delta resources such as; the California Duck Days in the Yolo Bypass, the Courtland Pear Festival, and the Rio Vista Bass Derby.

*3. Provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic, and/or scenic features.*

The Delta is a unique and valuable resource, spanning portions of five counties in northern California at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers. The Delta is an integral part of California's water system as its watershed provides over twenty-three million Californians and around four million acres of farmland with potable water. Additionally, it is an important habitat area for a large diversity of flora and fauna, an important stopover location along the Pacific flyway, and a critical corridor for anadromous fish. It is also an incredibly rich agricultural area of regional, national, and international importance.

Despite its significance, the Delta is not well known to outsiders, even people as close as the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento region, and Stockton. Many people benefit from the Delta, but are unaware of its existence. A Delta NHA could help educate people about its importance, and could build support in preserving, protecting and enhancing the Delta.

As discussed, there are many natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources in the Delta. A Delta NHA could be a tool to link the visitor sites together in order to assist with regional branding/marketing, and therefore potentially lead to an increase in recognition of these areas, which in turn could help sustain the sites economically and conserve their resources. Additionally, as outlined in this study, a Delta NHA would be a tool to develop valuable partnerships for undertaking projects aimed at sustaining the Delta's key sites which contribute to the recognition, enhancement, and promotion of 'Delta as a place'.

*4. Provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities.*

The Delta is a predominantly rural landscape lying in the midst of major metropolitan areas, and is a prime area for outdoor recreation by both Delta residents and urban dwellers from the surrounding cities. Ever since steamboats began traveling the Delta's waters during the Gold Rush, the Delta has been used as a major center for outdoor recreation. While numerous public and private recreational facilities exist throughout the Delta, efforts could be made to enhance both physical and organizational linkages amongst these areas in order to help market an identifiable Delta-brand.

Public education has also been discussed as an important goal of a Delta NHA. Due to the Delta's prime location between urban centers, it can serve as an important educational area both for both students in structured educational programs, as well as for leisure travelers. Education projects may include interpretive panels, outdoor learning facilities, museum displays, thematic tours, etc. Topics for education programs could include ecology and wildlife, agriculture, water resources, immigrant communities, reclamation, and more.

*5. The resources important to the identified theme or themes of the area retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation.*

Resources throughout the Delta retain integrity to support the interpretation of the identified NHA themes. Specific resources include historic buildings and districts, museums, bridges, public lands, agritourism sites, trails, heritage festivals, and more.

*6. Residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and governments within the proposed area are involved in the planning, have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles for all participants including the federal government, and have demonstrated support for designation of the area.*

This feasibility study has consisted of comprehensive public outreach and engagement with a variety of organizations representing local residents, local businesses, recreation, agriculture, Delta history, local government, and more. Through study team meetings, public meetings, stakeholder interviews, public review memos, public presentations, and more; residents and stakeholders have had significant involvement in the development of this feasibility study.

The DPC has a membership of 15, with a predominant local representation. If NHA designation is granted, and the DPC serves as the management entity, it can utilize its membership and existing network of local stakeholders to develop a management plan which is representative of the diverse interests and capabilities of the region. A TAC and a SAC would be formed to ensure that the necessary perspectives and expertise are brought to the table for regular input throughout the development of the NHA management plan.

Due to the current uncertainties of funding from both public and private sources, financial planning for a Delta NHA is conceptual. Federal funding awards currently range from \$150,000 to \$1,000,000, with a maximum of \$1,000,000 per year for 10 years, though awards have generally declined in recent years. Additionally, the management entity must be capable of meeting the 50% cash matching requirements for the federal funds. The DPC has had a strong history of acquiring grant funding for various projects, and a good understanding of potential funding sources for relevant projects. A nonprofit organization would also be a valuable partner organization to assist with fundraising.

Support from a variety of stakeholder groups, local governments, agencies, and nonprofits has been expressed for a Delta NHA. The DPC has received numerous letters of support, as well as partnership commitments, which can be found in appendix 6.

*7. The proposed management entity and units of government supporting the designation are willing to commit to working in partnership to develop the heritage area.*

Contra Costa and Sacramento counties have both provided letters of support for a Delta NHA, which include commitments to the DPC to participate in various aspects of NHA development.

*8. The proposal is consistent with continued economic activity in the area.*

Recreation and tourism are key drivers of the Delta economy, with roughly 12 million visitor days of use annually, a direct economic impact of more than a quarter of a billion dollars in visitor spending, and support of about 3,000 jobs in the five Delta counties. Despite its current contributions, significant constraints exist to Delta recreation and tourism, including the lack of a Delta brand/regional identity, and limited access to recreational areas. Identified goals of a Delta NHA include the branding of the Delta as a region of national significance; the development of necessary visitor amenities to assist with public access; economic development; and the promotion of heritage tourism, agritourism and ecotourism in the Delta.

*9. A conceptual boundary map is supported by the public.*

Two boundary alternatives had been proposed as part of this process; one consisting of the Delta Primary Zone with a few add-ons, and the other consisting of much of the Legal Delta, plus Suisun Marsh and Carquinez Strait. The topic of the NHA boundary was discussed in a series of three public meetings that the DPC held throughout the Delta, a study team meeting, and the December 2011 DPC meeting. Correspondence was also received from Delta counties and other entities on the topic. Through these activities and communications, significantly more support was expressed for the second boundary alternative. Therefore DPC staff has made the recommendation to use the second boundary alternative, with the addition of the city of Rio Vista due to the city's relevant resources and their desire to be included.

*10. The management entity proposed to plan and implement the project is described.*

The proposed management entity is the DPC with a new or existing nonprofit, private 501c3 serving as a partner organization to assist with fundraising. The DPC is a locally recognized agency in the Delta, with a predominant local membership, and has an extensive network of local stakeholders to whom it conducts regular outreach to. Additionally, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) would be formed to provide regular input throughout the process. Local agency staff whose jurisdiction includes falls within the NHA boundaries, including staff from all five Delta counties, would be invited to serve on the TAC. Members from a spectrum of local stakeholder groups (representing recreation, businesses, cultural and natural resources, landowners, agriculture, etc.) would be invited to serve on the SAC.

## Chapter 12 – Conclusion

This document explains the DPC’s study on the feasibility of a NHA designation in the Delta, including key components such as NHA themes, resources, potential partners, management, and conceptual boundaries. To date, local stakeholders have indicated support for the Delta NHA, and goals have been proposed which include branding, economic development, tourism promotion, visitor infrastructure development (public restrooms, directional signage, dockage, and garbage receptacles), historic preservation, interpretive signage, education programs, and more.

In summary, the mission of a Delta NHA includes the recognition, enhancement and promotion of ‘Delta-as-a-Place’. This concept can help to further build a public understanding of the Delta’s rich history; existing communities; natural resources; and sheer importance locally, statewide, nationally, and internationally. A Delta NHA would be a locally driven, collaborative approach to resource management, which could help built more support in preserving, protecting, and enhancing the Delta.

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